

Regarding claim 18 (in both of Group I and proposed Group XVI) that generically identifies several adverse ART outcomes, Applicants provisionally elect for search purposes only, in view of the number of generic claims relating to ART as identified above, a reduced fertilization rate as set forth in claim 18.

Regarding claim 28, which is a member of both proposed new Group XVI and Group I, Applicants provisionally elect for search purposes only the ART which is *in vitro* fertilization.

At the first paragraph of page 7 of the Office Action, the Examiner also indicated that claim 17, which is included within Group I, but not within proposed new Group XVI, is generic to several distinct species of adverse pregnancy outcomes and required further election. To the extent that claim 17 is considered, Applicants provisionally elect for search purposes only the miscarriage adverse pregnancy outcome.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of all of the restriction requirements are respectfully solicited. Alternatively, if this is not acceptable, reformulation of the claims indicated above into the new proposed Group XVI is respectfully requested.

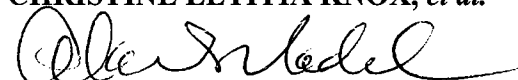
The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney by telephone to discuss this response or to help advance the prosecution of this application.

Respectfully submitted,

CHRISTINE LETITIA KNOX, et al.

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(Date)

By:



ALAN S. NADEL

Registration No. 27,363

AKIN GUMP STRAUSS HAUER & FELD LLP

One Commerce Square

2005 Market Street, Suite 2200

Philadelphia, PA 19103-7013

Telephone: 215-965-1200

Direct Dial: 215-965-1280

Facsimile: 215-965-1210

E-Mail: anadel@akingump.com

ASN:hg